

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

July 27, 2010

TO: Internal File

THRU: Ingrid Campbell, Biologist and Team Lead *IC*

FROM: James Owen, Reclamation Engineer *JO*

RE: Incidental Boundary Change, West Ridge Resources, INC., West Ridge Mine, C0070041, Task #3583

SUMMARY:

On June 28, 2010 the Utah Division of Oil Gas & Mining received an application from West Ridge Resources for an Incidental Boundary Change (IBC). The IBC is to allow mining within a small area of a newly acquired State Coal Lease. The IBC will increase the permit area by 22.5 acres.

The Permittee states that all mining in the IBC will be beneath at least 3000 feet of overburden and that no surface disturbance is expected to be associated with mining in the IBC. A longwall panel will intersect corners of the IBC.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Subsidence Control Plan

The application includes a Subsidence Map (Map 5-7) that indicates the expected extents of possible subsidence areas. Subsidence is a possibility due to the fact that a longwall panel will intersect the IBC. The nearest existing photogrammetric control point is approximately 6,000 feet away from the IBC. The nearest future photogrammetric control point will be approximately 4,000 feet from the IBC.

Findings:

The IBC (State Lease ML 51744) will not have a significant variance, in terms of subsidence, from the rest of the permit area. Therefore, the subsidence control plan is sufficient to accommodate the IBC.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

The application includes maps with the following information: IBC definition, permit area, lease locations, regional soils, general vegetation, wildlife details, land use, archeology, surface ownership, sub-surface ownership, mining projections, mining projections for extended reserves, subsidence, regional geology, coal seam structure, coal seam isopachs, water rights, seep/spring details, hydrologic monitoring details, and operational monitoring locations.

Findings:

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The submitted application is adequate in terms of maps providing details of resource and operational information that are relevant to the IBC. In addition, a registered professional engineer has certified all maps.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This amendment complies with the requirements of the Utah Coal Mining Rules and is recommended for approval.

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